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Mr. Powers' Day in Court

The irony in the case of Francis Gary Powers was that he had to explain his Russian adventure just after the nation had paid one of the most enthusiastic tributes in our history to another and more fortunate aviator. Colonel Glenn's mission succeeded. Mr. Powers' mission failed. Under these circumstances Mr. Powers came off well in his questioning by the Central Intelligence Agency and made a good impression in his appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The C. I. A., in an almost unprecedented public statement, finds that he "lived up to the terms of his employment and instructions in connection with his mission and in his obligations as an American under the circumstances in which he found himself." He was not censured for what he told the Russians, and he was not criticized for failing to kill himself. He will get his pay at the contract rate.

So ends this story. Mr. Powers probably has a good career in flying still ahead of him. And, as far as is known, we are not sending observation planes over Russia now. Apparently it is not technically necessary to do this nowadays.